

## Press Release

### More Doers Needed: Young MPs Performance in the 11th Parliament

**Nairobi, 1st August 2017** - Only a quarter of the young legislators who served in the 11th Parliament were doers and delivered on the youth promise by advocating for new ideas. Regardless of their low numbers, they however made significant impact in the life of the nation as their contributions focused on previously sidelined issues. Significant matters raised included: the enactment of the Access to information Law which had been stuck for about 20 years; setting up of the National Employment Authority to start addressing the unemployment challenge, writing of a food security law - a frequent challenge since independence and they also triggered the Cancer Prevention Amendment. Proponents of these laws were Priscilla Nyokabi, Johnson Sakaja, Beatrice Elachi and Gladys Wanga respectively.

On the other hand, nearly half of the young Parliamentarians were mere bystanders, following suit of some of their seniors. Some did not even make their maiden speech the entire term. These included: Alex Kosgey, Abdullahi Banticha and Eusila Ngeny in the National Assembly. In the Senate, the only bystander was Henry Ochwang'i who had been nominated by The National Alliance (TNA). Additionally, over 27% of the young MPs contributed substantively on matters that directly affect their peers and the country at large. They were vocal on matters listed in the Kenya National Youth Policy such as: Employment, education, inequality, housing, crime, corruption, health, and access to information.

Mzalendo's Executive Director Jessica Musila says "Article 55 of the Constitution 2010 handed to the youth a legitimate claim, and an opportune time to discover their full potential and change Kenya through policy change in the numerous positions that it promises them. Given that the number of the young Parliamentarians was a mere 11% of the total members the number of issues they tackled touching on the youth and the country in general was impressive. Going by the IEBC statistics only 9% of the youth (under 35 years) are vying for elective office. There is an opportunity in this election for us to give them a chance at leadership across the board to birth the changes Kenya needs."

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) had the largest share of youth Parliamentarians at 39% followed by the now defunct The National Alliance (TNA) at 24% and United Republican Party (URP) at 22%. The others, Wiper Democratic Movement (WDM), Alliance Party of Kenya (APK) trailed at 6% and 2% respectively. Youth MPs who came in as Independents were only two - Wesley Korir and Gatobu Kinoti. The other parties did not marshal enough numbers to nominate. For more details see the: [young parliamentarians report here](#)

Youth MPs best performance in plenary was in this year (2017) compared to previous ones. Meanwhile, 2013 had the worst plenary performance. In 2014 and 2015 the plenary performance was the same at 19% while 2016 performance was an improvement at 24% which remained the standard in 2017. For the entire period of the 11th Parliament; the best performers for the National Assembly were Sabina Wanjiru (Woman Rep. Murang'a County), Priscilla Nyokabi (Woman Rep. Nyeri County), David Ochieng (MP Ugenya) and Augustinho Neto (MP Ndiwa). The best performing Senators the entire period of the 11th Parliament were: Beatrice Elachi (nominated), Martha Wangari (nominated), Stephen Sang (Nandi County) and Kipchumba Murkomen (Elgeyo Marakwet).

Consequently the worst performers in the entire 11th Parliament in the National Assembly were Eusilah Ngeny (Woman Rep. Uasin Gishu), Nasra Ibren (Woman Rep. Marsabit), Alexander Kosgey (MP Emgwen), and Abdullahi Banticha (MP Isiolo South). In the Senate the worst performing members the entire period of the 11th Parliament include: Janet Teiya (nominated), Mvita Mshenga (nominated), Hosea Ochwang'i (nominated) and Isaac Melly (Uasin Gishu).

Mzalendo is a non-partisan organisation that keeps an eye on Kenyan Parliament with a mission to *facilitate public participation in Parliamentary processes through Information Sharing, Research and Networking.*

**For more information get in touch with:**  
Abiud Onyach, tel. 0727670279, 0726464063, Email: [community@mzalendo.com](mailto:community@mzalendo.com)